

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A method comprising:
receiving at an Identity System a request for a certificate related action for a user wherein the certificate related action is selected from a group consisting of a certificate enrollment action, a certificate renewal action, and a certificate revocation action; and
retrieving by the Identity System a workflow for responding to said request from a set of workflows, wherein said set of workflows includes a plurality of workflows for responding to said certificate related action, wherein each workflow in said plurality of workflows corresponds to a different set of characteristics for a user, wherein said workflow for responding to said request corresponds to said certificate related action and a set of characteristics for said user from an identity profile maintained by the Identity System, the set of characteristics including a user type, and wherein retrieving the workflow further comprises selecting the workflow from the plurality of workflows based on the requested certificate related action and the user type.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein a first workflow in said plurality of workflows contains a first set of directives and a second workflow in said plurality of workflows contains a second set of directives, wherein said first set of directives is different from said second set of directives.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein said certificate related action is a certificate enrollment action, wherein said first workflow in said plurality of workflows calls for obtaining an approval before issuing a certificate and wherein said second workflow in said plurality of workflows does not call for obtaining an approval before issuing a certificate.

5. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein said certificate related action is a certificate renewal action, wherein said first workflow in said plurality of workflows calls for retrieving an approval before renewing a certificate and wherein said second workflow in said plurality of workflows does not call for retrieving an approval before renewing a certificate.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein said certificate related action is a certificate revocation action.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, further comprising:
receiving said plurality of workflows.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
performing said workflow, wherein performing said workflow comprises:
retrieving an approval response; and
obtaining a certificate.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, further comprising:
receiving a second request for a second certificate related action for a second user;
retrieving a second workflow for responding to said second request from said set of workflows, wherein said second workflow corresponds to said second certificate related action and a set of characteristics for said second user; and
performing said second workflow, wherein performing said second workflow comprises:
obtaining a second certificate without retrieving an approval response.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein said certificate related action is a certificate enrollment action and said second certificate related action is a certificate enrollment action.

11. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein said certificate related action is a certificate renewal action and said second certificate related action is a certificate renewal action.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
performing said workflow, wherein said certificate related action is a certificate enrollment action and wherein performing said workflow comprises:

- obtaining a certificate, wherein obtaining the certificate comprises
 - authenticating said user;
 - forwarding said request to a Certificate Processing Server;
 - receiving said certificate; and
 - storing said certificate.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
performing said workflow, wherein said certificate related action is a certificate renewal action and wherein performing said workflow comprises:

- obtaining a certificate renewal, wherein obtaining the certificate renewal comprises:

- authenticating said user;
 - forwarding said request to a Certificate Processing Server;
 - receiving a certificate renewal acknowledgement.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
performing said workflow, wherein said certificate related action is a certificate revocation action and wherein performing said workflow comprises:

- revoking a certificate, wherein revoking the certificate comprises:

authenticating said user; and
forwarding said request to a Certificate Processing Server.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously Presented) One or more processor readable storage devices having processor readable code embodied on said processor readable storage devices, said processor readable code for programming one or more processors to perform a method comprising:

receiving at an Identity System a request for a certificate related action for a user wherein the certificate related action is selected from a group consisting of a certificate enrollment action, a certificate renewal action, and a certificate revocation action; and

retrieving by the Identity System a workflow for responding to said request from a set of workflows, wherein said set of workflows includes a plurality of workflows for responding to said certificate related action wherein each workflow in said plurality of workflows corresponds to a different set of characteristics for a user wherein said workflow for responding to said request corresponds to said certificate related action and a set of characteristics for said user from an identity profile maintained by the Identity System, the set of characteristics including a user type, and wherein retrieving the workflow further comprises selecting the workflow from the plurality of workflows based on the requested certificate related action and the user type.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously Presented) One or more processor readable storage devices according to claim 16, wherein a first workflow in said plurality of workflows contains a first set of directives and a second workflow in said plurality of workflows contains a second set of directives, wherein said first set of directives is different from said second set of directives.

19. (Original) One or more processor readable storage devices according to claim 18, wherein said certificate related action is a certificate enrollment action, wherein said first workflow in said plurality of workflows calls for obtaining an approval before issuing a certificate and wherein said second workflow in said plurality of workflows does not call for obtaining an approval before issuing a certificate.

20. (Previously Presented) One or more processor readable storage devices according to claim 18, wherein said method further comprises:
receiving said plurality of workflows.

21. (Previously Presented) One or more processor readable storage devices according to claim 16, wherein said method further comprises:
performing said workflow, wherein performing said workflow comprises:
retrieving an approval response; and
obtaining a certificate;
receiving a second request for a second certificate related action for a second user;
retrieving a second workflow for responding to said second request from said set of workflows, wherein said second workflow corresponds to said second certificate related action and a set of characteristics for said second user; and
performing said second workflow, wherein performing said second workflow comprises:
obtaining a second certificate without retrieving an approval response.

22. (Original) One or more processor readable storage devices according to claim 21, wherein said certificate related action is a certificate enrollment action and said second certificate related action is a certificate enrollment action.

23. (Previously Presented) One or more processor readable storage devices according to claim 16, wherein said method further comprises:

performing said workflow, wherein said certificate related action is a certificate enrollment action and wherein performing said workflow comprises:

obtaining a certificate, wherein obtaining the certificate comprises:
 authenticating said user;
 forwarding said request to a Certificate Processing Server;
 receiving said certificate; and
 storing said certificate.

24. (Previously Presented) One or more processor readable storage devices according to claim 16, wherein said method further comprises:

performing said workflow, wherein said certificate related action is a certificate renewal action and wherein performing said workflow comprises:

obtaining a certificate, wherein obtaining the certificate comprises
 authenticating said user;
 forwarding said request to a Certificate Processing Server; and
 receiving a certificate renewal acknowledgement.

25. (Previously Presented) One or more processor readable storage devices according to claim 16, wherein said method further comprises:

performing said workflow, wherein said certificate related action is a certificate revocation action and wherein performing said workflow comprises:

revoking a certificate, wherein revoking the certificate comprises:
 authenticating said user; and
 forwarding said request to a Certificate Processing Server.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Previously Presented) An apparatus comprising:

one or more communications interfaces;
one or more storage devices; and

one or more processors in communication with said one or more storage devices and said one or more communication interfaces, said one or more processors perform a method comprising:

receiving at an Identity System a request for a certificate related action for a user wherein the certificate related action is selected from a group consisting of a certificate enrollment action, a certificate renewal action, and a certificate revocation action; and

retrieving by the Identity System a workflow for responding to said request from a set of workflows, wherein said set of workflows includes a plurality of workflows for responding to said certificate related action wherein each workflow in said plurality of workflows corresponds to a different set of characteristics for a user wherein said workflow for responding to said request corresponds to said certificate related action and a set of characteristics for said user from an identity profile maintained by the Identity System, the set of characteristics including a user type, and wherein retrieving the workflow further comprises selecting the workflow from the plurality of workflows based on the requested certificate related action and the user type.

28. (Canceled)

29. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein a first workflow in said plurality of workflows contains a first set of directives and a second workflow in said plurality of workflows contains a second set of directives, wherein said first set of directives is different from said second set of directives.

30. (Original) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein said certificate related action is a certificate enrollment action, wherein said first workflow in said plurality of workflows calls for obtaining an approval before issuing a certificate and wherein said second workflow in said plurality of workflows does not call for obtaining an approval before issuing a certificate.

31. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein said method further comprises:

receiving said plurality of workflows.

32. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein said method further comprises:

performing said workflow, wherein performing said workflow comprises:

retrieving an approval response; and

obtaining a certificate;

receiving a second request for a second certificate related action for a second user;

retrieving a second workflow for responding to said second request from said set of workflows, wherein said second workflow corresponds to said second certificate related action and a set of characteristics for said second user; and

performing said second workflow, wherein performing said second workflow comprises:

obtaining a second certificate without retrieving an approval response.

33. (Original) The apparatus of claim 32, wherein said certificate related action is a certificate enrollment action and said second certificate related action is a certificate enrollment action.

34. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein said method further comprises:

performing said workflow, wherein said certificate related action is a certificate enrollment action and wherein performing said workflow comprises:

obtaining a certificate, wherein obtaining the certificate comprises:

authenticating said user;

forwarding said request to a Certificate Processing Server;

receiving said certificate; and

storing said certificate.

35. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein said method further comprises:

performing said workflow, wherein said certificate related action is a certificate renewal action and wherein performing said workflow comprises:

obtaining a certificate, wherein obtaining the certificate comprises:

authenticating said user;

forwarding said request to a Certificate Processing Server; and

receiving a certificate renewal acknowledgement.

36. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein said method further comprises:

performing said workflow, wherein said certificate related action is a certificate revocation action and wherein performing said workflow comprises:

revoking a certificate, wherein revoking the certificate comprises:

authenticating said user; and

forwarding said request to a Certificate Processing Server.

37. (Canceled)

38. (Previously Presented) A method comprising:

receiving a request for a certificate related action for a user; and

retrieving a workflow for responding to said request from a set of workflows,

wherein said workflow corresponds to said certificate related action and a set of characteristics for said user,

wherein said set of workflows includes a plurality of workflows for responding to said certificate related action,

wherein each workflow in said plurality of workflows corresponds to a different set of characteristics for a user, and

wherein retrieving the workflow for responding to said request further comprises selecting the workflow from the plurality of workflows based on the requested certificate related action and a user type of the user.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38, further comprising:
receiving said plurality of workflows.

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38, further comprising:
performing said workflow, wherein performing said workflow comprises:
retrieving an approval response; and
obtaining a certificate;
receiving a second request for a second certificate related action for a second user;
retrieving a second workflow for responding to said second request from said set
of workflows, wherein said second workflow corresponds to said second certificate related
action and a set of characteristics for said second user; and
performing said second workflow, wherein performing said second workflow
comprises:
obtaining a second certificate without retrieving an approval response.

41. (Original) The method of claim 40, wherein said certificate related action
and said second certificate related action call for the same certificate related action.

42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 40, wherein receiving the
request, retrieving the workflow, performing the workflow, receiving the second request,
retrieving the second workflow, and performing the second workflow are performed by an
Identity System in communication with an Access System.

43. (Previously Presented) One or more processor readable storage devices
having processor readable code embodied on said processor readable storage devices, said

processor readable code for programming one or more processors to perform a method comprising:

- receiving a request for a certificate related action for a user; and
- retrieving a workflow for responding to said request from a set of workflows, wherein said workflow corresponds to said certificate related action and a set of characteristics for said user,
- wherein said set of workflows includes a plurality of workflows for responding to said certificate related action,
- wherein each workflow in said plurality of workflows corresponds to a different set of characteristics for a user, and
- wherein retrieving the workflow for responding to said request further comprises selecting the workflow from the plurality of workflows based on the requested certificate related action and a user type of the user.

44. (Previously Presented) One or more processor readable storage devices according to claim 43, wherein said method further comprises:

- receiving said plurality of workflows.

45. (Previously Presented) One or more processor readable storage devices according to claim 43, wherein said method further comprises:

- performing said workflow, wherein performing said workflow comprises:
 - retrieving an approval response; and
 - obtaining a certificate;
- receiving a second request for a second certificate related action for a second user;
- retrieving a second workflow for responding to said second request from said set of workflows, wherein said second workflow corresponds to said second certificate related action and a set of characteristics for said second user; and performing said second workflow comprises:
 - obtaining a second certificate without retrieving an approval response.

46. (Original) One or more processor readable storage devices according to claim 45, wherein said certificate related action and said second certificate related action call for the same certificate related action.

47. (Previously Presented) One or more processor readable storage devices according to claim 45, wherein receiving the request, retrieving the workflow, performing the workflow, receiving the second request, retrieving the second workflow, and performing the second workflow are performed by an Identity System in communication with an Access System.

48. (Previously Presented) An apparatus comprising:
one or more communications interfaces;
one or more storage devices; and
one or more processors in communication with said one or more storage devices and said one or more communication interfaces, said one or more processors perform a method comprising:

receiving a request for a certificate related action for a user; and
retrieving a workflow for responding to said request from a set of workflows,

wherein said workflow corresponds to said certificate related action and a set of characteristics for said user,

wherein said set of workflows includes a plurality of workflows for responding to said certificate related action,

wherein each workflow in said plurality of workflows corresponds to a different set of characteristics for a user, and

wherein retrieving the workflow for responding to said request further comprises selecting the workflow from the plurality of workflows based on the requested certificate related action and a user type of the user.

49. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 48, wherein said method further comprises:

receiving said plurality of workflows.

50. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 48, wherein said method further comprises:

performing said workflow, wherein performing said workflow comprises:

retrieving an approval response; and

obtaining a certificate;

receiving a second request for a second certificate related action for a second user;

retrieving a second workflow for responding to said second request from said set of workflows, wherein said second workflow corresponds to said second certificate related action and a set of characteristics for said second user; and

performing said second workflow, wherein performing said second workflow comprises:

obtaining a second certificate without retrieving an approval response.

51. (Original) The apparatus of claim 50, wherein said certificate related action and said second certificate related action call for the same certificate related action.

52. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 50, wherein receiving the request, retrieving the workflow, performing the workflow, receiving the second request, retrieving the second workflow, and performing the second workflow are performed by an Identity System in communication with an Access System.